

have a nest. They have been known in some instances to occupy the same corner not only throughout the year, but during the life of the oldest inhabitant. I know not how often they build in the year, but the young have a very short time left the nest, when the work of relining it again commences, and it is generally during this time of incubation that the song is poured forth with all its sweetness." In a subsequent letter Mr. Kirk continues, "I mentioned in my supplementary letter of last year, that this little bird built generally in our houses; I have since found a nest in the very interior of the woods, and at the same time neglected to relate one very daring act of his in which I participated. One day my attention being arrested by the more than usual vociferations of this little bird quite adjacent to my window, on looking out I observed a pair of them fluttering and hovering over a small bush of grass in the garden; on stepping down stairs I observed a whip snake 4 or 5 feet long, hiding his head and drawing his body after him under the grass; on turning him out he was attacked right and left by these little warblers, striking him on the head and tail alternately as an opportunity offered, obliging him to take refuge wherever he could hide. They seemed to pay no attention to my presence, for on pressing his head to the ground they continued to nip his tail with their bills within 3 feet of me. After I despatched him they retired to an adjoining fence and poured forth a thousand thanks in an ecstasy of joy."

SYLVICOLA ÆSTIVA. (Canary or Siskin.) N.

"Migratory; time of arrival and departure not ascertained, but they are to be found in February, March and April. Feed upon small ants which they pick from the blossoms of trees, especially that of the 'Cog wood,' of which they appear particularly fond, and which is exactly the colour of the bird's belly when in good plumage; they warble very prettily at times, are very unstead, and appear always pursuing each other." We receive this also from Jamaica.

SYLVICOLA PARUS. N.

A single specimen only has been received and without remark.

[To be continued.]

IX.—*A Supplement to "A Synopsis of the British Rubi."* No. 2.

By CHARLES C. BABINGTON, M.A., F.L.S., F.G.S. &c.†

9*. *R. Grabowskii* (Weihe?); caule arcuato anguloso glabro, aculeis æqualibus valde declinatis deflexivse basi dilatatis, foliis quinato-digitatis planis supra opacis glabris subtus cinereo-tomentosis

† Read before the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, Jan. 14, 1847.

acute dentatis, *foliolo terminali cordato abrupte cuspidato infimis pedicellatis intermediis incumbentibus*, paniculæ compositæ inferne foliosæ ramis ascendentibus : rachi pilosa summa pedunculisque tomentosus, *fructibus pubescentibus*.

R. Grabowskii, *Weihe in Wimm. et Grab. Fl. Siles. ii. 32?*

R. nitidus? var. rotundifolius, *Bloxam MSS. in Fasc. of Rubi*.

Stem arching, angular, furrowed when young, glabrous (young shoots slightly hairy), ultimately purple; prickles moderately numerous, rather short, yellow, from a broad red base, strongly declining or deflexed, nearly equal, confined to the angles of the stem. Leaves quinate-pedate; stipules almost linear; petioles and midribs with numerous strong much-hooked prickles; leaflets finely toothed: teeth pyramidal, glabrous opaque and dark green above, ashy white and finely woolly with the veins rather yellow beneath; terminal leaflet broader than long, cordate below, abruptly cuspidate, sides regularly rounded; lateral similar but proportionably rather longer and almost exactly round; basal elliptical-ovate, rather unequal, overlapping the lateral leaflets, which themselves overlap the terminal leaflet.—Flowering shoot long, nearly glabrous; prickles numerous, rather slender, declining. Leaves nearly all ternate, ashy green beneath; petioles and midribs beneath with many short hooked purplish yellow prickles; leaflets like those of the barren stem, but the lateral ones lobed on the lower side; stipules very slender. Panicle narrow, compound, not setose, very prickly throughout: prickles slender declining or deflexed; rachis pilose below, becoming more hairy upwards, its summit and the peduncles and pedicels tomentose; about three lower branches axillary, short, racemose-corymbose, about six-flowered; ultra-axillary part compact, cylindrical, abrupt, branches short and corymbose; terminal flower subsessile; lower bracts leaf-like but inconspicuous, upper trifid hairy and tomentose. Sepals woolly, loosely reflexed from the oblong black pubescent fruit.

Near Cadeby, Leicestershire, *Rev. A. Bloxam*. August?

Obs. 1. This plant agrees so nearly with the elaborate description in the 'Flora Silesiæ' that that work might perhaps be referred to without doubt. In the Silesian plant the panicle is described as "ampla, pyramidata, apice acuta, usque fere ad apicem foliosa," but it is not so in our plant. In that the under side of the veins of the leaves is said to altogether want any longer hairs—in our plant those veins are clothed with longer hairs.

Obs. 2. This is an interesting connecting link. The clothing of the panicle and of the young lateral branches from the barren shoot is that of *R. nitidus*. It differs from that species by its hooked prickles; very abrupt leaflets opaque above and whitish

beneath, the lower and intermediate ones overlapping; and its woolly fruit. Its leaves much resemble those of that form of *R. discolor* named *R. abruptus* by Lindley, but that has silky barren and flowering shoots and rachis, and a very different panicle. Perhaps the most remarkable character of this plant is found in its woolly fruit, by which it is distinguished from all the allied species. The authors of the 'Flora Silesiæ' have not described the fruit of their plant. Arrhenius mentions a pubescent-fruited variety of *R. corylifolius*, but our present subject can scarcely be confounded with that species.

10. *R. discolor*, W. et N.

In place of the description of the varieties (Annals, xvii. 236) it is proposed to substitute the following.

α. discolor; caule strigoso-sericeo, aculeis declinatis deflexisve, foliolis marginem versus sæpissime decurvatis supra glabriusculis subtus albis tenuissime tomentosis, paniculæ racemosæ tomentosæ ramis decompositis.

R. discolor, *Rub. Germ.* 46. t. 20; *Arrhenius, Rub. Suec.* 32.

R. fruticosus, *Sm. Eng. Bot.* 715.

β. thyrsoides (Bell Salt. !); caule subglabro, aculeis rectis, foliolis planis supra glabris subtus viridi-cano-vel candicanti-tomentosis, panicula elongata thyrsoides tomentosa.

R. thyrsoides (*Wimm.*), *Arrhen. Rub. Suec.* 28.

R. fruticosus, *Rub. Germ.* 24. t. 7.

R. discolor var. lividus, *Bloxam MSS. in Fasc. of Rubi*.

γ. macroacanthus (Bell Salt. !); caule sparsim patenteque piloso, aculeis validis pilosis rectiusculis paululumve deflexis, foliolis planis supra pilosis subtus pubescenti-canis mollibus, paniculæ pubescentis ramis racemosis paucifloris.

R. macroacanthos, *Rub. Germ.* 44. t. 18.

δ. argenteus (Bell Salt.); caule patente-piloso, aculeis rectis, foliolis planis subtus argenteo-cano-pubescentibus, paniculæ pubescentis ramis racemoso-compositis paucifloris.

R. argenteus, *Rub. Germ.* 45. t. 19.

Obs. 1. Since the publication of my former account of this species I have seen reason to modify my views concerning its varieties. I now think that Dr. Bell Salter is correct in referring tab. 7 of the 'Rub. Germ.' to the *R. thyrsoides* of Arrhenius; his and my *var. β.* of this species. The former difference between us originated from none of my specimens of *R. thyrsoides* having well-developed panicles. A plant given as *R. discolor var. lividus* in Bloxam's 'Fasciculus of Rubi' is what I consider as the true *R. thyrsoides*.

Obs. 2. The former "Obs. 2" (Annals, xvii. 237) is not cor-

rect. I believe that the lower (axillary) branches of the panicle ascend in all the varieties, and the upper (ultra-axillary) branches usually spread at a considerable angle to the rachis. I am not well-acquainted with *var. δ*, having only one rather doubtful specimen; the character of it is therefore a compilation from books.

12*. *R. Balfourianus*; caule arcuato teretiusculo patenti-piloso, aculeis paulo inæqualibus tenuibus rectis vix declinatis, foliis quinatis subtus mollibus pallide viridibus, foliolo terminali cordato ovatove acuto, *infimis subsessilibus intermediis incumbenibus*, paniculæ corymboso-diffusæ tomentosæ setosæ bracteis foliaceis trifidis, *sepalis* ovato-lanceolatis tomentosæ setosis *erecto-patentibus* apice foliaceis vel filiformi-attenuatis.

R. Balfourianus, *Bloxam MSS. in Fasc. of Rubi*.

Stem roundish, striated; pubescence of scattered patent hairs; prickles moderate, scattered, nearly equal, straight, very slightly declining, reddish yellow. Leaves large, quinately, dull green and pilose above, pale green soft and downy with the veins yellow beneath, crenate-serrate-apiculate; terminal leaflet cordate or ovate, acute, on a long stalk; lateral leaflets ovate, acute, shortly stalked; basal subsessile, ovate, overlapping the intermediate pair; general and partial petioles pilose, with few distant rather stout depressed yellow prickles; midribs similarly armed; stipules lanceolate, leaf-like, attenuated at both ends.—Flowering shoot with scattered hairs. Leaves ternate or quinately; leaflets ovate, pilose above, downy beneath. Panicle corymbose or diffuse, tomentose, pilose, setose; lower branches axillary, upper ones subtended by trifid leaf-like bracts. Flowers mostly on long stalks; terminal one shortly stalked or subsessile; sepals ovate-lanceolate, very broad, attenuated into a long leaf-like or setaceous point, often slightly trifid at the end like the uppermost bracts, downy on both sides, setose, brownish green, erect-patent when the hemispherical fruit is ripe.

Near Rugby, Warwickshire, *Rev. A. Bloxam*. August?

Obs. It is difficult to determine the position of this plant. Its stem, pubescence, and prickles place it near to *R. sylvaticus*, whilst its usually much more lax and diffuse panicle, and especially the erect or embracing calyx of the fruit seem to separate it widely from that species; in the latter point and in some others of less moment, it is nearly allied to *R. Borreri*, from which its barren stem abundantly distinguishes it. The lower leaflets also overlapping those of the intermediate pair distinguishes it from both of those species.

Named by Mr. Bloxam in honour of Professor John Hutton Balfour, M.D., of Edinburgh, and in paying this just compliment to my valued friend I fully concur with him.

19. *R. rudis*, Weihe.

e. *denticulatus*; foliolo terminali quadrangulari-obovato cuspidato basi cordato late inepteque dentato: dentibus denticulatis.

Stem angular, striated; hairs very few; setæ and aciculi not many, short. Terminal leaflet with a somewhat square outline widening slightly upwards and then narrowing rapidly to a cuspidate termination, cordate below. Leaflets all stalked; margin with broad but very shallow and scarcely distinguishable teeth, fringed with small acute prominent denticulations; dark green and pilose above, pale yellowish green beneath. Panicle exactly like that of the typical *R. rudis*.

Loxley near Sheffield, *Rev. W. W. Newbould*.

Obs. This is a very curious variety, in which the coarse serratures of *R. rudis* are reduced in length but not in width, and are thus converted into very broad and very shallow teeth; the whole margin is also fringed with minute points or denticulations. It is very near in general character to *R. rudis* β . *Leightonii*, but differs in the above respects.

22. *R. fusco-ater*, Weihe.

δ . *subglaber*; caulis petiolorumque aculeis subæqualibus setisque paucis, aciculis brevibus pilisque paucissimis, foliis apiculato-dentatis supra glabris subtus tomentosus, foliolo terminali cordato cuspidato, paniculæ diffusæ tomentosæ pilis subnullis setis aciculisque brevibus aculeis elongatis.

Distinguished from all the other forms of *R. fusco-ater* by its almost total want of hairs on the panicle, and the nearly glabrous and more uniformly prickly stems. Its panicle is much divided and spreads in an irregular manner. It is the plant mentioned in the Synopsis as received from Mr. Coleman. Mr. Adamson's plant noticed in the same place is more nearly allied to the typical *R. fusco-ater*.

Mangrove Lane near Hertford, *Rev. W. H. Coleman*. On the canal bank between Claverton and the Dundas aqueduct near Bath.

X.—*The Birds of Calcutta, collected and described by*
CARL J. SUNDEVALL*.

[Continued from vol. xviii. p. 461.]

69. *Gallus alector* var. *domestica*. Tame fowls are kept in great numbers by the Musselmans and Portuguese†. The Hin-

* Translated from the 'Physiographiska Sällskapet's Tidskrift' by H. E. Strickland, M.A.

† The Portuguese who migrated thither in the time of Albuquerque settled in the country, and their descendants, who are now numerous in and around Calcutta, have become as black as negroes. The Hindoos in the lowlands have nearly the same colour.